

County manager quits post

Compares decision to leave to divorce of a couple unable to get along

By AARON ALDRIDGE
Staff Writer

Sullivan County Manager Ed Gil de Rubio resigned from his position Monday citing irreconcilable differences.

Newport "We accepted his resignation this morning," commissioner Jeff Barrette said Monday. "He'll remain

employed through the end of the year for consultation or for day-to-day stuff that comes up."

Gil de Rubio, who was appointed July 2002, said his decision to leave was discussed with the commissioners last week.

"The board and I have known there were some personalities involved that obstructed my ability to do the job as county manager," Gil de Rubio said. "We clearly came

to the decision that we were on two different parallels."

Gil de Rubio compared his decision to leave to a divorce between a couple who were unable to get along.

"I'm a professional," Gil de Rubio said. "When you start to see that happen, it's at that point it was the time to remove myself from the picture."

Facilities director Greg Chanis was

appointed interim county manager by the commissioners, Barrette said.

"He's jumping in feet first," Barrette said. "He's a smart guy."

Barrette said the county reached a settlement on a \$47,000 severance package for Gil de Rubio that includes salary and benefits.

"The resignation was not requested,"

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Barrette said. "It was time for both of us to move in different directions."

Barrette said the position of county manager will remain, but with a few changes.

"That position is going to undergo some very large transitions in the coming months," Barrette said.

Barrette was not specific about what changes would be made, but he did say that Chanis would be working with Gil de Rubio during the transition.

"Greg Chanis is a great person to come in," Gil de Rubio said. "He works with the budget every day. I'll be working until Dec. 31 out of my home to help him out if he needs it."

Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, said she wasn't surprised to hear of Gil de Rubio's resignation and had some advice for the commissioners.

"I hope that the commissioners will take the advice of the study committee from several years ago to hire a business manager with a very strong financial background so we can start trying to protect the taxpayers of Sullivan County," Rodeschin said.

Rodeschin added that Gil de Rubio will be missed.

"I wish Ed good luck in whatever his future endeavors are," she said.

Rep. Peter Franklin, D-Newport, had no comment when told about the resignation.

In the future, Gil de Rubio said he will continue working in his profession.

"I'll keep doing the same thing," Gil de Rubio said. "This is what I do. I have some irons in the fire."

As for the future of Sullivan County, Gil de Rubio said there are still many challenges.

"There's a lot of hard work left to be done," Gil de Rubio said. "I wish everyone the best of luck in their future endeavors."

Gil de Rubio said he enjoyed his time working for the people of Sullivan County and with the staff at his office.

"I really enjoyed my stay," Gil de Rubio said. "The staff has been great. The department heads are great. The county is very fortunate to have the people they have working for them."

County business will be conducted as usual while Chanis makes the transition into his new position.

"County business will continue uninterrupted," Barrette said. "We're going to take things as they come."

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